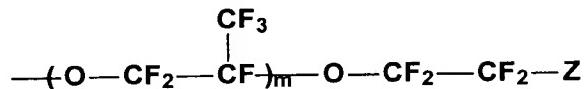
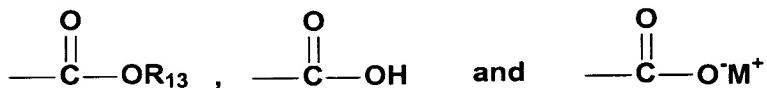


wherein a is a number from 1 to 100; b is a number from 99 to 1; c is a number from 1 to 50 ; R₁-R₇ are each selected from the group consisting of H, F, alkyl, and aryl; wherein at least one of R₁-R₇ is F; and R₈ is a moiety of the formula



in which m is a number from 1 to 18; and Z is selected from the group consisting of SO₂F, SO₃H, SO₃M^{v+}, COF, CO₂H, and CO₂M^{v+}, wherein v is the valence of and M is a cation selected from Group I, Ia, IIa, IIb, IIIa, IIIb, IVa, IVb, and transition elements; R₉-R₁₁ are independently selected from the group consisting of H, F, alkyl and aryl; and R₁₂ is selected from the group consisting of



wherein R₁₃ is a C₁-C₁₂ linear or branched chain alkyl group.

REMARKS

Claims 1 to 26 appear in the reissue application for the Examiner's review and consideration. Claims 1-7, 9, 10, 12, 13, 18, 19, 22 and 23 have been amended as described below. Claims 8, 11, 14-17, 20 and 21 are pending without any amendment. New claims 24-26 have been added. The amendments to the specification (described below) have been made to correct obvious misspellings and typographical errors; no new matter has been added by these changes. The claims, as amended, are fully supported by the specification and claims as originally filed and, therefore, there is no issue of new matter.

The word "form" has been replaced with from in claims 19 and 23, to correct typographical errors.

The words "for the" have been replaced with from in claim 10, to correct a typographical error.

The formula in claim 8 and at col. 7 1.1-14 of the specification has been amended to correct an obvious typographical error wherein CF₂ was shown as CF.

Claims 1-3, 5, and 12 have been amended to replace the words "outer surface" with cover layer. These amendments have been made to clarify the original language of the claims. Support for these amendments is found in claim 13 of U.S. Patent No. 5,691,066, as issued.

Claim 6 has been rewritten in independent form to remove the multiple dependency. Claim 6 as amended, along with new claims 25 and 26 recite that the fluoropolymer is a terpolymer. Support for this amendment and for new claims 25 and 26 may be found in col. 6, lines 46-55, and in claim 6 of U.S. Patent No. 5,691,066, as issued.

Claims 19 and 23 have been amended to recite that the fluoropolymer is a terpolymer. Support for these amendments is found in col. 6, lines 46-55. Further, claims 6, 19 and 23 have been amended to explicitly recite the composition of the fluoropolymer. Support for these amendments is found in col. 6, lines 24-55.

Claim 9 has been amended to correct an inadvertent oversight wherein the species with which the vinyl ether is copolymerized was omitted. Support for this amendment is found at col. 7, lines 34-35.

Claim 10 has been amended to correct an inadvertent oversight wherein the definition of Y was omitted. Support for this amendment is found at col. 7, lines 31-32.

New claim 24 has been added to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the invention. No new matter is added by this new claim. Support for this claim is found at col. 4, lines 46-57.

Depending on the exact interpretation of the preamble to independent claims 1, 3, 5, 18 and 22 of U.S. Patent No. 5,691,066, as issued, it may be possible to obtain a fluoropolymer which does not necessarily contain fluorine or a fluorinated moiety. To avoid errors of interpretation, applicant has amended the claims of the issued patent, as indicated above, to more specifically point out and distinctly claim the fluoropolymer of the invention.

Applicants submit that this reissue application is in condition for allowance, early notice of which would be appreciated. Should the Examiner not agree with the Applicants' position, then a personal or telephonic interview is respectfully requested to discuss any remaining issues and expedite the eventual allowance of the reissue application.

No fee, other than that for the reissue application, is believed to be due for the present submission. However, if a fee is due, please charge the required amount to Pennie & Edmonds LLP Deposit Account No. 11-650.

Respectfully submitted,

Date April 6, 2001

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